

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP2003/008105 filed July 24, 2003**

Please replace the heading on page 13, line 1, with the following new heading: **WE CLAIM:**.

Please delete page 15 containing the Abstract of the Disclosure and add new page, 15, submitted herewith.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (new): A process for monitoring the stability of compositions which contain vinylog compounds, which comprises: (a) determining a content of dissolved oxygen in the composition; and (b) comparing the content of dissolved oxygen in the composition with predetermined reference values for a condition of the composition, whereby, the stability of the composition is determined.

Claim 17 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the stability is monitored by determining a time required for complete consumption of the dissolved oxygen from the measured content of dissolved oxygen and the rate at which oxygen is consumed under the conditions of the composition.

Claim 18 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the dissolved oxygen content is continuously determined and comparison of the dissolved oxygen content determined with the reference values is continuously carried out.

Claim 19 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the composition comprises a reacting mixture under reduced pressure.

Claim 20 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the dissolved oxygen content is measured with an oxygen sensor.

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Claim 21 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the dissolved oxygen content is amperometrically determined.

Claim 22 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the dissolved oxygen content is determined by titration.

Claim 23 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the dissolved oxygen content is determined by spectroscopic methods, in at least one of an IR and an NIR spectral region.

Claim 24 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the dissolved oxygen content is determined in the composition contained in a vessel selected from the group consisting of the reaction vessels, storage vessels and transportation vessels.

Claim 25 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, a portion of the composition being monitored is removed from a vessel, passed through an analytical device where the dissolved oxygen content is determined, and optionally returned to the vessel.

Claim 26 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the dissolved oxygen content is determined at several different locations within the composition contained in a vessel.

Claim 27 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the dissolved oxygen content is determined in an upper region of a liquid phase of the composition.

Claim 28 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the dissolved oxygen content is determined in a lower region of a liquid phase of the composition.

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Claim 29 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, an oxygen content is additionally determined in a vapor phase above a liquid phase in a vessel by means of a sensor.

Claim 30 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, the composition of which the stability is monitored, comprises a reacting mixture for production of (meth)acrylic acid esters of mono- or polyhydric alcohols, the reacting mixture comprising (meth)acrylic acid esters, wherein, the reacting mixture is optionally under reduced pressure.

Claim 31 (new): The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein, the dissolved oxygen content is continuously determined and comparison of the dissolved oxygen content determined with the reference values is continuously carried out.

Claim 32 (new): The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein, the composition comprises a reacting mixture under reduced pressure.

Claim 33 (new): The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein, the dissolved oxygen content is determined in the composition contained in a vessel selected from the group consisting of the reaction vessels, storage vessels and transportation vessels.

Claim 34 (new): The process as claimed in claim 24, wherein, a portion of the composition being monitored is removed from a vessel, passed through an analytical device where the dissolved oxygen content is determined, and optionally returned to the vessel.